

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ADDIS 09024 011359Z

47

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 AGR-20 SWF-02 EB-11 IO-14 COME-00

DRC-01 /162 W

----- 065225

R 011227Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0349

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHRARTOUM BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI BY POUCH

USCINCEUR BY POUCH

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 9024

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJ: PRIMIN'S PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: ADDIS 8995

1. AS FULL TEXT OF PRIMIN'S JULY 30 PRESS CONFERENCE NOW
OFFICIALLY TRANSLATED, FOLLOWING NOTEWORTHY EXCERPT ON LAND REFORM
IS SUBMITTED HERewith:

2. BEGIN QUOTE (UNNECESSARY WORDS OMITTED): THE LAND TENURE
SYSTEM HAS NOT BEEN CHANGED TO SUIT MODERN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PLANS. IT REMAINS AS IT WAS IN OLDEN DAYS. IT MUST BE CHANGED,
AND THIS WAS PLEDGED IN CABINET POLICY STATEMENT EARLY THIS
YEAR. PROCEDURES OF REFORMING PRESENT LAND TENURE SYSTEM WERE
DETAILED IN OUR STATEMENT. THERE COULD BE MANY PROBLEMS IN ITS
IMPLEMENTATION AND SUCH STUDY HAS BEEN DONE OVER PROBLEMS.
IN GENERAL, I CANNOT IMAGINE THERE IS ANY PERSON WHO
DOES NOT BELIEVE COUNTRY IS IN DIRE NEED OF LAND REFORM. FOR
THAT AGGRAVATED FAMINE IN WOLLO. TENANTS THERE COULD HAVE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ADDIS 09024 011359Z

SUBSISTED ON SURPLUS FROM EARLIER HARVESTS WERE THEY NOT OBLIGED

GIVE LION'S SHARE OF PRODUCE TO LANDLORDS. ON THIS LINE, WE CAN CONCLUDE LAND TENURE SYSTEM WAS AGGRAVATING FACTOR. AND I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT EFFECTS OF THE DROUGHT COULD HAVE BEEN MINIMIZED IF LAND REFORM MEASURES WERE TAKEN SOME TIME EARLIER. THERE MAY NOT BE ANY LANDLORD OR OTHERWISE IN COUNTRY WHO SHOW INDIFFERENCE TO LAND REFORM WHOSE ABSENCE IN FUTURE WILL MAKE US WITNESS TO SITUATIONS SIMILAR TO THAT IN WOLLO.

FARMERS AND THEIR CHILDREN MUST BE MADE TO ENJOY FULLER LIFE; THEY MUST HAVE EDUCATIONAL AND MEDICAL FACILITIES, AND THEY CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS UNLESS THEY GET RETURNS FROM THEIR TOIL. WE ARE DETERMINED TO ALLEVIATE RURAL POPULATION FROM GRIM REALITIES OF LIFE PREVAILING NOW. MAJOR TASK TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN ORDER HELP RURAL PEOPLE IS TO REFORM LAND TENURE SYSTEM, AND THIS CALLS FOR HIGH DEDICATION ON OUR PART. THE BIG GAP BETWEEN LIVING STANDARD OF URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION MUST BE MADE TO COME CLOSER.

THE MINISTRY OF LAND REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT IS ALREADY PERPARING A DRAFT LAND REFORM BILL BASED ON CABINET POLICY STATEMENT. THE DARFT WILL BE CONSIDERED BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS LATER ON AND SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT AFTER RECEIVING APPROVAL OF EMPEROR.

AS I SAID EARLIER, WE ARE DETERMINED TO REFORM LAND-HOLDING SYSTEM IN THIS COUNTRY. DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS CANNOT PROCEED AN INCH UNLESS LAND REFORM IS EFFECTED. THIS BELIEF GOADS US TO REFORM LAND IN WAY THAT WILL SUIT TENANTS AND LANDLORDS.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE IS TO TAKE STEPS THAT HELP BRING SMOOTH TRANSITION. THE SOCIAL SETUP SHOULD NOT BE BRINK OF CHOAS AND DISRUPTION. NOTHING THAT CREATES CHAOS IN SOCIETY WILL BE ATTEMPTED. WE WILL TRY TO CONVINCE LAND HOLDERS AND TENANTS THAT STEPS TO BE TAKEN ARE FOR COMMON GOOD OF NATION. CONCERNED PEOPLE MUST UNDERSTAND WHOLE PROBLEM. WE WILL BE VERY CAUTIOUS NOT TO UNDERTAKE MEASURES THAT CREATE MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND DIVISION AMONG PEOPLE. END QUOTE.
WYMAN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, PRESS CONFERENCES, LAND REFORMS, LAND TENURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ADDIS09024
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740209-1099
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740884/aaaactive.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ADDIS 8995
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 MAR 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <16 JAN 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIMIN'S PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: PINS, PINT, EGEN, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005